THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) 92.5% of the Golden Quadrilateral comprising of Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Kolkata-Delhi has been completed as on 30.06.2006.

(b) 84% of the Delhi-Kolkata Section of the Golden Quadrilateral has been completed. In Uttar Pradesh, out of 755 Km. under the proejct 556 Km. has been completed and 199 Km. is under implementation.

(c) 96% of Golden Quadrilateral Project is targeted to be completed by December, 2006. Balance of 4 per cent stretches are affected due to non-performance of contractor, reward of terminated contracts and also award of Allahabad bypass in 2004 with completion date in 2007.

Construction of By-passes around Jaipur

†1138 SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to construct by-passes around Jaipur given the huge traffic on National Highway;

(b) if so, by when Government would give clearance to construction by by-passes linking Ajmer-Jaipur road (NH-8) to Jaipur-Tonk road (NH-12), Tonk-Jaipur road (NH-12) to Jaipur-Agra road (NH-11) and Agra-Jaipur road (NH-11) to Jaipur-Delhi road (NH-8); and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) There is already a Jaipur by-pass on western side of National Highway 8 connecting Delhi-Jaipur (National Highway 8) to Jaipur-Bikaner (National Highway 11) to Jaipur-Ajmer (National Highway 8).

(b) and (c) The need for by-passes around important cities including Jaipur is to be convered under phase-VII of National Highway Development Project (NHDP), which is yet to be approved by the Government.

Evaluation of road project

1139 SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Road Transport has asked Government to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

either reverse the Cabinet decision to review infrastructure project by PPPAC or remove deadlines set for road sector projects;

(b) if so, whether Ministry has pointed out that evaluation of road projects through PPPAC would lead to further delay;

(c) whether Ministry was unable to meet the deadline set by Cabinet Committee for completing Golden Quadrilateral and other centrally funded roads; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government have considered Ministry's view and the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Development of Road Transport and Highways had requested for waiver of PPPAC approval for future Phases of NHDP, except the cases involving deviation from Model Concession Agreement. However, deadlines set were not requested to be removed.

(c) There has been some delays in completion of NHDP Phase-I project due to problems associated with acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, environment clearance and poor performance of contractors etc.

(d) Project for which bids were invited prior to 27.10.2005 would be exempted from the purview of approval of PPPAC. The steps taken to expedite the projects are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The details of steps taken to expedite the projects

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the project:—

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision consultants, Project Directors, Senior Officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and Minister, Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc.

These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges.

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.

(e) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited for construction of some of the Road Over Bridges.

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

(g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.

Development of NH 47 and NH 17

1140. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for neglecting Kerala, while Golden Quadrilateral Project and North-South and East-West Corridors were planned and executed;

(b) whether Government would not think of rectifying this by providing Keraia connectivity to these national proejcts by developing NH 47 and NH 17; and

(c) the proposals in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir. There is no neglect of Kerala. The Salem-Kochi Spur of North-South Corridor has been provided to connect Kerala with North-South Corridor.